

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 13, 2010

8:30 a.m.

GVMC Offices
678 Front Ave., Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County

3. Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the October 2009, Legislative Committee Minutes.
MOVE – Van Beek. SUPPORT – Bolt. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Resolution on Michigan Legislative Commission Recommendations on Statutory Mandates

Don Stypula distributed and reviewed a draft resolution in support of the recommendations of the Michigan Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates.

The recommendations include:

- The enactment of legislation and state court rules that would mitigate the impact of unfunded mandates imposed on local units of government in the future.
- The adoption of legislative procedures that will prevent new unfunded mandates from being imposed on local units of government.
- Amendments to legislative rules and the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act to require the preparation of a “fiscal note” within both the legislative and administrative rules processes to estimate the enhanced cost to local government from proposed bills and administrative rules and prevent legislation and administrative rules from taking effect until the state provides the funding to implement the changes.
- Institutionalize the role of the special master within the Court of Appeals to ensure adjudication of Headlee challenges within six months and enact legislation placing the burden of proof on the state to demonstrate that a statute or administrative rule would not impose additional cost or that it had provided the funding to pay for those costs.

MOTION – To Move the Resolution of Support of the Michigan Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates to the Executive Committee. The Executive Director May Modify the Resolution as he Deems Needed to Coordinate with Other Organizations. MOTION – Homan. SUPPORT – Hoemke. MOTION CARRIED.

The impact and usefulness of a resolution was questioned vs. person-to-person meetings with legislators. It was determined that a resolution developed valuable talking points and was useful in educating legislative staff, the public and elected officials. However, it was also stressed that a resolution should be accompanied by person-to-person visits with legislators. Don Stypula stated that if passed by the GVMC Board, he would not only send to legislators, but also meet with them, do a

news release and contact media representatives. As news reports are printed, he will also bring those to legislators.

Also, as a matter of general practice, whenever a communication, resolution, etc. is sent to a legislature, it should include a request for response.

It was also determined that candidates for legislature are most attentive to local government issues before they are elected and are looking for endorsements. Candidates should be questioned and asked for responses on issues as they meet with local officials and during candidate forums.

Keith Van Beek indicated that this issue would be counties' & MAC's number one issue.

It was stated that interested organizations such as MTA, MML, MAC, SEMCOG, KISD etc. should work together on the issue. In legislative issues in general, these organizations need to remember that they share more like positions than not. The Executive Director should check on creating a joint resolution.

The resolution should be used as the Executive Director, as well as members, and local elected officials talk with legislators.

5. Issues Update

Don Stypula reported the Governor is going to introduce her budget in the second week of February. There is a huge gap between revenues and expenditures. Little is left of the federal stimulus money. There are no details on what might be affected, however probably not 312.

The Municipal Partnership Act was a good first draft. By reference it addresses other acts to be changed. It may be tie-barred to separate pieces of legislation which change each of those individual acts.

There is a push on in the legislature to move forward on transportation funding. They are looking at an increase in the gasoline sales tax of 3 cents 2010, 3 cents 2011, and 3 cents 2012. It is not anticipated to be taken up until December.

The second federal stimulus will fund roads and bridges and is moving forward in the Senate.

Bills to ban texting while in a moving vehicle are being introduced in the Michigan Senate.

Haris Alibasic reported taxation reform legislation is being introduced. This is something to be watched.

6. Other

Mike DeVries noted it would be helpful for the committee to define our process to make it more effective. Correspondence with legislators should include a request for a response back.

7. Adjourn – 9:45 a.m.